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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2-18 are pending with claims 17 and 18 being new.

Claims 1 and 5-7, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO96/27766 to Brehm in view of Ansart.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 and claim 2 has been cancelled. Because this amendment is being filed with an RCE, and a new search will be done by the Examiner, it is believed that this is an acceptable approach.

Claim 1 now requires, *inter alia*:

wherein the outer-flame tube wall ports include a first arrangement of ports including a single first row of ports and the inner flame-tube wall ports include a second arrangement of ports including a single first row of ports, with the ports of the second arrangement being circumferentially aligned off-center with the ports of the first row of the first arrangement, wherein the first arrangement of ports includes a second row of ports, with the ports of the second row being aligned circumferentially off-center with, and positioned rearwards of the ports of the first row and the ports of the inner second arrangement are circumferentially aligned off-center with the first row of ports of the first arrangement.

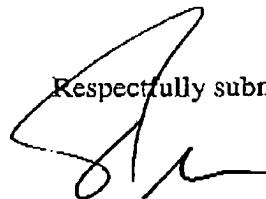
Neither Brehm nor Ansart disclose such an arrangement of ports, particularly where the outer first arrangement of ports includes first and second rows of ports, with the ports of the second row being aligned circumferentially off-center with, and positioned rearwards of the ports of the first row and the ports of the inner second arrangement are circumferentially aligned off-center with the first row of ports of the first arrangement. Nor does either Brehm or Ansart even suggest the use of two spaced rows of ports on either the inner or outer port arrangements, so neither reference cures the deficiencies of the other and therefore, even in combination, these references do not render obvious claim 1.

In view of the above, it is believed that claim 1 is in allowable condition. Claims 3-18 all depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the further limitations contained therein.

It is believed that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If anything else of a minor nature is required to place this

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application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.


Respectfully submitted,
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